

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-20 are pending, with claims 1-5, 8 and 15 being independent. By this Amendment, claims 1-5, 8 and 15 are amended; and claims 16-20 are added.

No New Matter

No new matter is added. For example, dependent claims 16-20 as added find support in the specification at least at paragraph [0047], and as illustrated in Fig. 4.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Bridging pages 2 and 3 of the final Office Action, the Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as invention. To address the Examiner's specific concerns, relevant claims 1-5, 8 and 15 are amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Further, independent claims 1-5, 8 and 15 variously recite data including both processing data to be information-processed and electronic money data of an electronic money issuer including an amount of electronic money that is necessary for payment for information processing of said processing data and information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid. The features have been clarified to address the Examiner's question as to "what validity information is intended." As Applicants have disclosed, the function of determining whether the electronic money is valid or not is based on the result of the check of validity of the electronic money from an electronic money issuing server

(e.g., paragraph [0044]). Applicants further detail below the specific exemplary steps [e.g., steps S706-S708] to effectuate the validity check.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

On pages 4-17, claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the Aiyama patent (U.S. 7,075,666, hereinafter "Aiyama") in view of the Berson et al. patent (U.S. 6,938,154, hereinafter "Berson"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have discussed of record an exemplary configuration of the JOB data, wherein the electronic money data can include:

- information on the electronic money itself,
- information on the issuer of the electronic money,
- information on the date and time of issuance of the electronic money,
- information on the amount of the electronic money, and
- information on the use record of the electronic money.

The Examiner has correctly conceded that Aiyama does not disclose processing data and electronic money data that are attached together. However, the Examiner cites Berson as allegedly remedying the deficiencies of Aiyama.

Applicants have disclosed that at S705 as shown in Fig. 6, the electronic money data is analyzed, and the information on the issuer of the electronic money is taken out (e.g., paragraph [0058]). When the corresponding electronic money issuer is present (YES at S706), the process proceeds to S707, where preparations for data transmission to the electronic money issuing server 5 are made (e.g.,

paragraph [0059]). At S708, whether a result of the check of validity of the electronic money is received from the electronic money issuing server 5 or not is determined. When the result is not received (NO at S708), the process returns, and when the result is received (YES at S708), the process proceeds to S709 (e.g., paragraph [0060]).

The foregoing features are broadly encompassed by claim 1, which recites, among other features, receiving, through a network, data including both processing data to be information-processed and electronic money data of an electronic money issuer including an amount of electronic money that is necessary for payment for information processing of said processing data and information on the electronic money issuer for determining whether the electronic money data is valid, wherein the processing data and the electronic money data are attached together.

The Berson et al. patent relates to network devices that can be configured to enforce policies. Specifically, the Berson et al. patent teaches a printer, capable of engaging in electronic cash protocols, that could accept digital cash along with a document over the network to pay for print services. However, the Berson et al. patent, even if considered in combination with the Aiyama patent as the Examiner has suggested, would not have taught or suggested at least electronic money data of an electronic money issuer..., wherein the processing data and the electronic money data are attached together, as variously recited in at least claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 8. In contrast, the Berson et al. patent merely teaches a printer that accepts digital cash along with a document to be printed.

Further, nowhere in the Berson et al. patent does it mention specifically electronic money data of an electronic money issuer, information of the electronic

money issuer being used for determining whether the electronic money data is valid, as variously recited in claims 1-5, 8 and 15. Rather, the digital cash in Berson is devoid of any information of an electronic money issuer, but is merely meant to be accepted by the printer regardless whether the digital cash is valid.

Even if considered in combination with the Aiyama patent as the Examiner has suggested, the Berson et al. patent in combination with the Aiyama patent would not have resulted in Applicants' broadly recited features of claims 1-5, 8 and 15.

Conclusion

For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of the Berson et al. patent with the Aiyama patent as the Examiner has suggested would not have rendered obvious the subject matter of claims 1-5, 8 and 15. By virtue of their dependency from these patentably distinct claims, dependent claims 6, 7, 9-14 and 16-20 are also submitted to be allowable over the references.

In view thereof, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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